

NANAHIKARI



A father's light is as good
as seven lights

Volume 7 (complete)

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Thanks to Morthis for editing most of Chapter 27-28!

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TAKAGUCHI SATOSUMI

NANAHIKARI

Cast of characters

Family name written first where known.

**NANAHARA Hikaru**

Age 17. Main character. He is on a mission to find his eight half brothers in order to claim his inheritance.

**MIZUHO Kazumitsu**

A famous actor and Hikaru's late father. In his will, he asks Hikaru to find his eight half brothers.

**SHIMOYURA Hirose**

Age 31. Attorney and one of Mizuho Kazumitsu's former lovers.

**ASHINUMA Ushio**

An older student (sensei) at Hikaru's high school. His uncle was a talented conductor and friend of Mizuho Kazumitsu.

**Nazara**

Hikaru's talkative and loyal girlfriend.

**KAMAHORI Toniko**

Celebrity reporter investigating the rumors about Mizuho Kazumitsu's secret sons.

**OHE Takako**

Hikaru's mother and Mizuho Kazumitsu's ex-wife. A former concert pianist.

**ASHINUMA Nobumi**

Ashinuma Ushio's late uncle. A talented orchestral conductor and close friend of Mizuho Kazumitsu.

Hikaru's half-brothers so far

**SASAYA Kai**

Age 31. His mother later reveals he is not Mizuho Kazumitsu's biological son.

**KUREKAKE Yuuma**

Age 17. Amateur shogi player. His younger sister, Chika, has a crush on him.

**OKINO Shinobu**

Age 13. A theater actor who specializes in playing female roles. His stepfather is acquainted with Hikaru's mother.

**SUETSUGU Wataru**

Age 27. A professional chef who has worked abroad in France. His mother has just died of a terminal illness.

**UCHI Junichi**

Age 17. A music student who plays the viola. He knows about Mizuho's will and the names of the other brothers.

**TUZUKI Shion**

Age 17. A music student at the same school as Junichi. Attorney Shimogura gives him regular payments to make ends meet.

**SATO Yui**

Age 17. The informant who has been leaking details about Mizuho's sons to reporter Kamahori and other media outlets.

高口里純

Chara
COMICS

ななひかり



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雑誌 52815—39

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At the height of the media frenzy over Mizuha Kazumitsu's secret sons, Asahuma-senpai reveals he is leaving Japan to study abroad. Hikaru is stunned by the shocking news. To make matters worse, Attorney Shimogura travels to North America without saying a word!

Deeply wounded from the realization he has been dumped, Hikaru then receives his father's last will and testament.

With the truth behind the secret sons finally unveiled, does the unlikely romance between a high school student and an attorney have a future? As everything comes to light, the series reaches its emotional climax! ♥



CHARA COMICS

7
高口里純

徳間書店

YOSUMI TANABUCHI PRESENTS
CHARA COMICS



ななひかり

VOL.7

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SATOSUMI TAKAGUCHI PRESENTS

ななひかり
NANAHIKARI

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There's
no use
looking
back.



But...

But we
were so
right for
each other...



...weren't
we?

A close-up of two characters' faces. In the foreground, a young man with dark hair and a serious expression looks slightly to the left. Behind him, an older man with glasses and a mustache looks on with a somber expression.

I don't
want it to
be over.

How can
I supposed
to go on
without him?

A full-body illustration of a man standing against a dark background. He is wearing a dark beanie, a thick quilted winter jacket, and dark trousers. He has a somber expression and is looking slightly to the side.

I don't
want to
end it.

A large rectangular panel showing a dramatic, cloudy sky. The clouds are dark and swirling, creating a sense of movement and atmosphere.

I've got
no idea
at all.



HEY!



OH—
HI NATSUME.

HI NATSUME? IS THAT
ALL YOU'VE GOT TO SAY?



IS THAT
KOU,
VIBRANT-
GIANT?



YOU
FORGOT
I SAID,
ANAKO-
CHANI!

BUT NO...
THAT'S
NOT IT...



YOU
NEVER
ANSWERED
YOUR
PHONE!

OH,
WELL,
YOU
SEE...



I COULDN'T
DO ANYTHING
WITH IT FOR A
WHOLE WEEK!

TO BE
HONEST
WITH YOU...

TODAY I
DECIDED
TO LEAVE
SCHOOL EARLY,
BREAK MY TIES
TO THE PAST
AND GET MYSELF
A BRAND NEW
CELLPHONE!

...MY POOR
CELLPHONE
BEGAN FREZZING
UP ON ME A
WHILE AGO!

I THINK
IT WAS A
CASE OF DATA
OVERLOAD!



AND OF
COURSE I
COULDN'T
ANSWER MY
PHONE
ANYMORE!

WELL
MEANS...

...I
COULDN'T
TEXT ANYONE
THE WHOLE
TIME!

YEAH?





AND
YOU.

WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT THE SAME
GUY WHO TOOK
ADVANTAGE OF
YOU IN THE
WORST WAY
POSSIBLE.

AS FAR AS
I'M CONCERNED,
IT WOULD BE A
HUGE RELIEF IF
HE VANISHED
WITHOUT A
TRACE!



AAAAAAAAA.

YOU CAN'T GO ON
TO SAYING THAT
SOMEbody THROAT
THE WIND OF AN
ADULT MALE.

STUDY
ABROAD?!







BETTER
GET UP
HERE
FAST...

...OR
YOU'LL
BE MOBBED
BY GIRLS
LIKE LAST
TIME.

SENPAI



I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU
IN AGES,
MINAMURA.

I KNOW
I HAVEN'T
BEEN IN
TOUCH...

SORRY!

ENOUGH
TEARS!





...OR DO
YOU NEED
TO GO TO
CLASS
SOON?

HAVE
YOU GOT
TIME TO
TALK...



FORGET IT.
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT ME
AND MY
FEELINGS.



ARE YOU
GOING TO
STUDY
ABROAD?



FORGET
ABOUT
CLASS.

WHAT'S
ON YOUR
MIND?



YEAH
I AM.

WHY NOW?
IT'S SO
SUDDEN.



OK,
THAT.



WELL...

IT MAY
APPEAR
SUDDEN,
BUT I'M NOT
SO SURE.



WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

I'LL BE
AWAY FOR
THREE OR
FOUR YEARS.

DO YOU
MEAN...

W-WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?





I HONESTLY
DON'T WANT
TO GO



IF THAT'S
THE WAY
YOU
FEEL...

...THEN
YOU DON'T
HAVE
TO GO



YOU'RE
SO CLOSE
WHEN YOU'RE
DESPERATE





THERE'S SOME-
ONE ..

I DON'T
HAVE A
CHOICE.
I'VE GOT
TO GO.

...WHO'S
BEEN
WAITING
A LONG
TIME FOR
ME..



NO, I'D
RATHER
KNOW THAN
BE KEPT IN
THE DARK.

SHOULD
I KEEP MY
FEELINGS
FOR YOU
TO MYSELF
AGAIN?



SENPAI ..

RECORD LONG
RECORD LONG
FROM GERMANY
RECORD LONG
RECORD LONG

I FOUND
IT A BIT
ODD AT
THE TIME

A LONG
TIME
AGO

... THERE
WAS THIS
OLDER KID
WHO HUNG
AROUND
ME ...

EACH
WHEN I
WAS IN
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

I LEARNED
HE HAD A
COUSIN WHO
HAD THEM TO
KEEP A CLOSE
EYE ON ME

YOU SEE,
MY MOTHER
ISN'T MY
REAL
MOTHER

SHE'S
ACTUALLY
MY OLDER
SISTER



Older
brother
?!

HE WAS
MY OLDER
BROTHER.



WHICH MEANS
ANIKURA
NOTOCHI'S NOT
MY UNCLE.



TAKE A
LOOK.



OFFICIALLY
HE'S MEANT
TO BE MY
GRANDFATHER

HERE'S MY
BIOLOGICAL
FATHER.



...BUT
SHE WANTS
TO SEE ME
VERY MUCH.

I'VE NEVER
KNOWN MY
BIOLOGICAL
MOTHER...

I'M
TELLING
YOU NOW
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
MELUAGU'S
SON.

I'VE
NEVER
TOLD
ANYONE
ABOUT THIS
EXCEPT
YOU.



NOW
IT'S MY
TURN.

FOR REASONS
UNKNOWN, THE MEN
IN MY FAMILY DON'T
LIVE LONG. THREE OF
US WHO ARE NEXT IN
LINE TO CARRY ON THE
ASHIMURA FAMILY NAME
HOPE NODOKUNI'S
PRESENCE DEATH
WILL BE THE LAST.

...SHE'S
RETURNING
TO THE
ASHIMURA
FAMILY
FOLD.

I'M
PRETTY
SURE...



I LEARNED
ALL ABOUT
IT LAST
YEAR.

HOW
LONG...
...HAVE
YOU BEEN
AWARE OF
THIS?

I READ
ABOUT
IT IN MY
BROTHER'S
JOURNAL.

IT WAS
ABOUT THE
TIME YOU FIRST
JOINED AT
SCHOOL...



WH
SHE



DID YOU
KNOW LONG
BEFORE THE
WORD GOT
OUT?

REALLY
?

SO YOU
FOUND OUT
ABOUT ME BY
GAMING?



I SHOULD'VE
TOLD YOU
SOONER,
NATSUKI...

She had
known
everything!

So he
knew all
along!









AND
THAT'S
HOW IT ALL
BEGAN.

ALLOW
ME TO
HAVE
YOUR
CHILD.

ANY
WOMAN
?

THEN
CHOOSE
ME!



...HE'D SURELY
DISCOVERED
THE WILL TO LIVE
ONCE HE HAD
CHILDREN OF
HIS OWN.

THE
THREE
OF US
BELIEVED...



...SO WE
WENT AHEAD
WITH OUR
FOOL-HAPPY
SCHEME.



OF COURSE WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE THE ORCHESTRA...

BUT
ASHIKAGA
WAS INCREDIBLY
GENEROUS IN
SUPPORTING US



SAIT
EXPLAINS
THE
HOSPITAL



YOU
WOULDN'T
BEEN TWO
OR THREE
YEARS
OLD?

SO WHEN
THE THREE
OF US WERE
TOGETHER IN
HOSPITAL...



WHEN
ARIMURA
PASSED
AWAY...

YOU MEAN
HE WAS IN A
HOSPITAL
BED IN
JAPAN?

WE TOOK
YOU ALL
TO HOSPITAL
COUNTLESS
TIMES SO
HE COULD
SEE THE
THREE OF
YOU.

...WE FELT AS
IF OUR VERY
EXISTENCE
HAD LOST ALL
MEANING...

...BUT
WE PILED
OURSELVES
TOGETHER AND
CARRIED ON.

FOR THE FIRST TIME
HISUO
KASAHARA
FELT GUILTY



HE HAD
SEPARATED,
BUT IT HAD
ALREADY
BORN LIFE

IRONIC
HAPPY

YOUR
FATHER'S
MARRIAGE
BROKE
DOWN



SHORTLY
AFTER HE
LEARNED OF
KASAHARA'S
DEATH

ALTHOUGH HE
KNEW IT PROBABLY
HE UNDERSTOOD
KASAHARA'S DEATH
WITH HIS LOVING
SUBTLETY

COULDN'T NOT
KNOWING THEM
PERSONALLY





VERUCA
MILJANI

...IF IRISHO
NEVER PUT
HIS THOUGHTS
INTO WORDS,
THEY WOULD
BE LOST
WITH HIM.

...THERE
ISN'T MUCH
WE CAN
DO...

MAYBE THEY
FIND THEM
PAINFUL AND
ROMANTIC.

NOW.



HE'S NO
LONGER
WITH US
EITHER.



That's what
Shazgurs-san
was trying
to do



...BUT HIS
TEACHINGS
SURELY
DESERVE TO BE
PRESERVED...

FOR
FUTURITY.

MAYBE
WE'D JUST
READ
THEM AND
LAUGH...



...TO
SUDDENLY
FIND MYSELF
WHERE I
COULD JUST
DISAPPEAR OFF
THE FACE OF
THIS EARTH.

WHEN I
REFLECT ON
THE SORED
CIRCUMSTANCES
THAT LED TO
MY BIRTH...

AT LEAST
THOSE
BOYS WERE
WELCOMED
INTO THE
WORLD
UNLIKE ME.



IT WOULD
WHETHER
I EVEN
DESERVE TO
BE HERE.



MINAKATA

BUT
THEN...

... A CERTAIN
GOODMOUTH
GIRL WOULD
OFTEN SURGE
IN AND DISRUPT
MY MOROSE
TRAIN OF
THOUGHT



NO! YOU
SHOULD
PUT IT INTO
WORDS!
DON'T KEEP
THIS TO
YOURSELF!



NOW I'VE
MADE THE
MISTAKE...

...OF TELLING
YOU MORE
THAN YOU
WANTED TO
HEAR, HEN?



I DIED
FROM
THE GAZE
BLINDNESS IN
THE END.

THE
TWO OF
THEM...



NOW
YOU'VE
SAID IT.
NEVER,
YOU CAN'T
TAKE IT
BACK!



IT MUST
HAVE
BEEN
FATE.



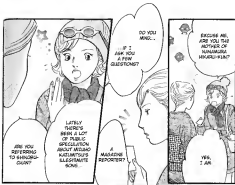


THAT'S
WHAT I
BELIEVE.

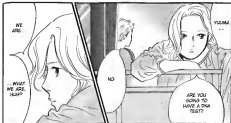


Stay
strong.
Sempai.

You've
got to
stay
strong.











IS THAT
YOU
HEARD?



I KNOW
HE
WOULD
COME BACK
HERE.

GUITSUGU-
HAN.





IT'D LIKE
YOU TO
DELIVER IT
TO HIM

HIKARU
NEEDS TO
RECEIVE
THIS
ENVELOPE



—TO LIST
HIMSELF
GOD?

ARE
YOU
GOING...



ARE
YOU?

ななひかり
NANAHIKARI

contact.26





ARE YOU
GOING
TO LET
HIM GO?

SO ARE
YOU?



I ASKED
YOU FIRST.
ARE YOU
DOING THE
QUESTION?



I'VE GOT
NOTHING
TO HIDE.

WHY
WOULD I?



I WASN'T
BORROWING
YOUR
QUESTION

I'M
ACTUALLY
CONCERNED
ABOUT YOU



IN ANY CASE,
I DOUBT ANYONE
WILL EVER COME
BACK HERE
AGAIN



YOU'RE
AS GUILTY
AS I AM,
YOU KNOW

YOU
WANTED
HAIKUN
ALL TO
YOURSELF,
THE SAME
AS I DID



...YET HE WAS
IN LOVE WITH
YOU THE WHOLE
TIME. YOU HAD
A SPECIAL PLACE
IN HIS HEART.

HE DID FEEL
SORRY FOR ME
AS HIS HALF-
BROTHER WHEN
HE REALIZED I
HAD NO OTHER
FAMILY...



BUT
HE WASN'T...

COULDN'T
BRING HIMSELF
TO CHOOSE
BETWEEN THE
TWO OF US,
COULD HE?



IN THE END,
NEITHER OF
US WON.

IT WOULD
BE FUTILE
TO EXPECT
ANYTHING MORE
FROM HIM.



ARE YOU
SUGGESTING
THAT WE
FIND SOLACE
IN EACH
OTHER'S
ARM?



WELL
ARE YOU
BURNING
A BURNING
HEART?
I'M SURE
YOU'LL GET
OVER IT



YOU
REALLY
HAVE NO
IDEA.

WELL
IT?





GAO!!

WEEKLY ENQUIRER

BE A LITTLE
MORE GENTLE
WITH THAT
MAGAZINE,
KANA-CHAN!

I DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS!

SCOOP!
THE TRUTH ABOUT ACTOR
MIZONO KAZUMITSU!

BY EDWARD TAYLOR



LOOK
AT THIS,
CHIEF!

Exclusive report!
The lovechild from a secret 2000
marriage over 20 years ago!

BY TOSHIO KIKUCHI



BELIEVE
MEATY?

★ STAGE STAR MIZONO KAZUMITSU



BUT



THEY'RE
ALL COMING
UP WITH
SILLY OLD
SCHEMES AND
TREATMENT

WHEN
GAIL
COMES

YOU'RE
IN NO
POSITION TO
JUDGE OTHERS

THE ONLY
REAL REASON
TO GET AN
ILLUSTRATION
FOR OUR
MAGAZINE

PLEASE
DON'T GO
ANYWHERE

My mother
was
different
from the
rest!

I really
wanted
to discover
the truth.

?



I was
going with
my mother

Especially
about
Hikaru-kun,
Akio's
Kazuo's son

When
I saw him
up close...

Everything
something
world
country

The son of
one of the most
famous actors in
Japan, he was
born into a
world of
fame.

Let's
know that
he passed on the
torch to a new
generation.



He can
hardly bear
ability to make
woman doubt

...each one
of them is
attractive
in his own
right.

Although I
can't confirm
it yet, he sure
is a real Atsuko's
only son after

But no matter
how many of
them are out
there

If indeed they
are all genuine
sons of Mikoko
Katsuragi...

They will
grow up to
be such
gorgeous-
looking
men.



To be lying
if I said that
cutting them
was the last thing
on my mind.

I know
sometimes I can
see my position
towards them
in a whole
different way.



But...



...is
complete
and utter
crap!

This
so-called
exclusive
scoop...









I DON'T WANT
YOU TO COME
BURRING TO ME
ABOUT THIS
ANYMORE!

I'VE GOT
MY OWN
FULL LIVED
MY OWN
LIFE!



STOP
BEGG
THAT!

LEAVE
ME OUT
OF THIS!

BUT THAT'S
JUST IT,
BEGG!
YOU—



IT'S
UP TO
ALL OF
YOU

IT'S NOT
UP TO
ME ANY
LONGER



Keep
watching
us.













EVER SINCE HE
WAS HIRED BY
YOUR FATHER
I BELIEVE IT
WAS AT YOUR
FATHER'S
REQUEST

HOW
LONG...

FOR
THIRTYTHREE
YEARS BEEN
KEEPING THEM
ON HIS?



YOUR
MOTHER
WASNT
ALWAYS
CHILDREN

YOUR
FATHER

YOUR MOTHER
WASNT YOUR
LATE
FATHER

WE'RE ALL
DEPENDENT
ON YOU





...just the
thought of
his touch

...makes
my body
burn up
inside

My mind is
overwhelmed
with the memory
of his lips and
fingers.

...fanning
me on and
asking
me what







...I'M SURE
HE'LL GET
OVER ME.

IN
TIME

I don't
think
he will

HE'LL
BE FINE



HE DOESN'T
NEED ME NOW
MY SERVICES
ANYMORE.
HE'S GOT WHAT
IT TAKES TO
COMPLETE
THE TASK ON
HIS OWN

HE'S A KIND-
HEARTED BOY
WHO CARES
FOR OTHERS A
GREAT DEAL



I shouldn't
have moved
this. I should
have kept it
for later.



I should
have moved
this. I should
have kept it
for later.



He radiated
as much
youthful
vitality.



It almost
hurt my eyes
to look at
him.





FANCY
MEETING
NOW HERE.



BEING, HAVN'T IT
BEFORE WE WERE
COMPETING FOR
SOMEONE'S AFFECTION.
NOW IT SEEMS WE'RE
COMPETING TO BE
THE FIRST TO CUT
HIM LOOSE.



!

...YOU CAN'T
ESCAPE
YOUR OWN
FEELINGS





I'VE GOT
YOU ALL
FIGURED
OUT

YOU'RE
THE KIND OF
PERSON...

...WHO'S TOO
WEAK TO PUT
UP A FIGHT.



YOU GIVE YOURSELF
AWAY TOO EASILY.
YOU'RE INCAPABLE
OF HIDING YOUR
TRUE NATURE.







I must be
drunk...



because
I know
I shouldn't
be doing
this.







THAT'S
WHAT SHE
TOLD US AS
WELL

SHE SAID
THERE WAS
NOTHING
TO HIDE...

HMPH!



...AND
IT WAS
POINTLESS
TO KEEP
THINGS
SECRET.



WO YOU
SHOULD ALL
STAND TALL
AND NOT BE
AFRAID OF WHO
YOU ARE

IF ANYONE
CONSIDERS
YOU ALL IN
THE WAY...

THEN
I'LL
JUST
KNOW
YOUR
NAME

THE DEATH
OF NO ONE
KNOWS
FOR SURE

IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF I OR
ANYONE ELSE
APPROVES OR
DISAPPROVES
OF ANYONE'S
DECISION

DO WE
JUST
KNOW
YOU WERE
SUPPOSED
TO BE IN
THEIR?





ななひかり
NANAHIKARI

contact.27



...is
completely
blank.

Please
contact
me for the
required
details.

I wasn't
told anything
about him by
Sawaguro-
san.

Please
contact
me for the
required
details.

The file on
the eighth
secret son...





Do
you
know
what
method
was used
to find out
about this?

And
I tried to
find out
something as
a sign of his
unconditional
love

Maybe Hoshino
developed a deep
attachment
to his little
half-brother
of the time...



if Ashinaka-sempai
is meant to be the
final beneficiary in
my father's will...

I wonder
why I wasn't
told until
the end



But...





IT'S UNWISE
TO KEEP
SECRETS
ANYMORE...



HEARU-
CHAU...



THIS MIGHT
BE THE ONLY
CHANCE I GET
TO WRITE FOR
A WHILE. SO
I'LL EXPLAIN
WHY I'VE
BEEN HERE.

ENCLOSED IS
A LETTER FROM
AKIHO KUROKI'S
ATTORNEY.
SANDORA ASKED
ME TO DELIVER
IT TO YOU.



DESPITE
BEING OLDER
THAN YOU,
I TOOK
ADVANTAGE
OF YOUR
GREAT POWER.

BECAUSE YOU
COULD BE
ANYWHERE
AND I COULD
NOT.

I WANT
YOU TO KNOW
THAT I WILL
KEEP IN TOUCH
THIS LETTER
TO YOU WILL
DEFINITELY
NOT BE
MY LAST.



A FRIEND
OF MINE HAS
OPENED A NEW
RESTAURANT,
SO I DECIDED
TO WORK
FOR HIM.

I KNOW
IT SEEMS
SUDDEN,
BUT I'VE
MOVED TO
CANADA.

THANK YOU
FOR BEING
SO KIND
TO ME.

I HAVE A
GREAT DEAL
TO THANK
YOU FOR,
RYUKU.



Unfortunately, at your
promise for me to spend the rest
of my life with the two of you.

Although it's not a broken
dream, I suddenly wonder
what our lives might have
been together.

However, I suppose you have
little more than fuzzy
memories of your father.

I need to ask a special
favor of you.



EH?

AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
I WENT TO
ALL THIS TROUBLE
TO COOK...

HAHA!

I NEED
TO ASK
A SPECIAL
FAVOR OF
YOU.

HOWEVER,
I SUPPOSE
YOU HAVE
LITTLE
MORE THAN
POZZY
MEMORIES
OF YOUR
FATHER.

WILL
YOU AT
LEAST
HEAR
ME OUT?

I'LL EAT
LATER.

I'M
GOING
OUT FOR
A WHILE.
I'LL BE
BACK
SOON.

I NEED TO
TALK SOME
OF THIS.

WHAT
IS IT?

I HAVE
OTHER
BOYS I
HAVE
SECRETLY
CLAIMED
AS MY
OWN.

I WISH TO
BESTOW
A SMALL
INHERITANCE
TO EACH
OF THEM,
AS WELL
AS YOU.

EH?

I THINK
THIS IS
DAD'S
WILL...



THEY ARE ALL
FINE YOUNG MEN,
I'D LIKE THEM
TO BE FRIENDS
MORE THAT CAN
GAPEN INTO
YOUR HELP.

PLEASE
ONE KEY
FOR
LOVE

AND FORM
A CLOSE
BOND WITH
MAMA THAT
IS DEEPER
THAN
FRIEND-
SHIP.



I'D LIKE YOUR
HELP IN
LEADING
OUT TO THEM
TO CREATE THE
SPECIAL ROAD
THAT BRINGS
BETWEEN
BROTHERS.

GRAND
IS YOUR
YOUNGER
BROTHER
AND WANT
YOUR DEAR
BROTHER.

PERHAPS
THE TRUTH
SURROUNDING
JONGHYU, GAYUN
AND YU WILL
EVENTUALLY
COME TO LIGHT.





AT BIRTH
WE HAVE A
FATHER AND
MOTHER,
AND LATER
WE HAVE
FRIENDS.



IF THE
TRUTH
DOES
COME TO
LIGHT...

...I'M SURE
YOU WILL
HANDLE IT
WITH THE
STRENGTH AND
RESILIENCE
OF YOUTH.

ONE LIFE
DONES'T HAVE
TO END FOR
ANOTHER LIFE
TO BEGIN.



DO YOUR
BEST TO
GET ALONG
WITH
EVERYONE.

TAKE
CARE
OF YOUR
MOTHER.

DO
THIS
FOR
ME...

...AND YOU'LL
UNSHACKLE
ALL MY BOYS
AND GET
THEM FREE.

DEAR
AKIARU...

LIFE HAS
MEANING.

LATELY
I'VE COME
TO REALIZE
THAT DEATH,
TOO, HAS
MEANING.







I KNOW
YOU
HATE.

JUN-GAM,
YOU'VE FELT
THIS WAY
FOR A WHILE.
HAVEN'T YOU?



...I'M SURE
THEY'D SEE
THAT WE DON'T
BELONG HERE AND
OUR LIVES WERE
A MISTAKE.



THAT'S WHY
YOU SUDDENLY
DROPPED OUT
OF SCHOOL.



BUT
I—

FINE
THEM!

ARE YOU
GONNA WASTE
THE TALENT YOU
INHERITED FROM
YOUR FATHER AND
END YOUR LIFE
TONIGHT?

WHY ARE
YOU BEATING
YOURSELF
UP LIKE
THIS?

WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
SAYING??



JUN-JUN,
WHAT ABOUT
YOU?

IS THIS
THE KIND OF
EVIDENCE
YOU WANT
FOR YOURSELF?

THEN
AGAIN,
NO ONE
CARES WHAT
WE DO!



I'D
NEVER DO
SOMETHING
THAT
CRUIZ.



I ARRIVED
HERE A LOT
EARLIER THAN
YOU TWO, SO
I WANT FOR A
LONG WALK.

WELL,
...



BUT IS IT A
GOOD IDEA TO
HANG AROUND
HERE SO
LONG?

THEN YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO RUSH TO
GET HERE



YES!

I AGREE
COMPLETELY!



WE CAN'T
UNDO THE
MISTAKES OF
THE PAST,
SO HANGING
AROUND IS
ALL WE CAN
DO NOW.

WHO'S
GONNA SAY
ANYTHING?





I OWE YOU
ALL AN
APOLOGY...

...FOR FAILING
TO REALIZE HOW
NEER-THICKING
THIS SITUATION
HAS BEEN
FOR YOU.

...HE WAS
GOING TO
STAND TELL
AND TAKE NO
NOTICE OF WHAT
OTHERS SAY.

YUUKI
TOLD
ME...

I'M SURE
YOUR LIVES
WERE NO MISTAKE
YOU WERE ALL
ABOUT TO BE
BORN.



...THEN
I'M SURE
ANY THINGS
WOULD'VE MADE
SENSE A LOT
SOONER.

IF ONLY I
HAD TAKEN THE
TIME AND EFFORT
TO TRACK DOWN
EACH OF YOU MUCH
EARLIER...





WHY?
DON'T
HE
GUILT

THEN I BEGAN
WONDERING IF
I SHOULD KEEP A
LOW PROFILE AND
STOP MESSING
IN EVERYONE'S
LIFE FOR A
CHANGE.



I KNOW I
WALKED OUT
ON YOU ALL
THE OTHER
DAY...

...BUT I WAS
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO MEETING
YUKIO-KUN



...I CAN
FINALLY
SPEAK
TO YOU.

BUT I'M
GLAD...



ME TOO.



How the hell did
I get so
hopelessly
sidetracked?

Not getting
too deeply
involved with
anyone is what
saved me.

A debut
CD!



— Just the
memory of him,
nothing back—
a truck of
sensations

Although
it's been
a while
since I last
saw him...





...WHEN YOU
SPEND PART
OF YOUR LIFE
WALKING BY
THAT SIDE,
KIMARI.

YOU GET
TO KNOW
A PERSON'S
CHARACTER...

WHATEVER
YOU DO,
YOU DO FOR
EACH OTHER.
THE FEELING
IS MUTUAL.



DID YOU
KNOW
HOW DAD
FELT?



Mutual
Feelings...





...and
you never
know my
feelings
either.

But I
never
knew your
feelings.



MUTUGI



I DON'T
WANT ANY
MORE GLOOMY
CONVERSATION
THIS MORNING!

WELL, I'VE HAD
ENOUGH!



THAT'S IT,
MAMIE!
I WISHED
YOU NOT TO
DRAG YOUR
MAMA INTO
THIS!

HE'Y!
MAMA! C'MON,
MAMA!

I STILL
WANT TO
ASK YOU—

HEY!













THAT WILL
HAVE LOTS
OF PEOPLE
BLISSING WITH
EXCITEMENT!

WE
MILKED!

I THINK
IT'LL MAKE
A GREAT
NEWS
STORY...

IT WAS
REPORTED
KURAHARA-SAN'S
IDEA. WHEN SHE
SENT ME A TEXT,
I WAS ABLE TO
HEAR ABOUT

SCREEN
IDOL MICHIO
KAZUMITSU...

YOU'LL NEVER
BE LEFT ALONE,
WHICH IS WHY YOU
SHOULD FACE THE
MEDIA BATTERS
THAN GO INTO
HIDE.

WE SOME
CERTAINLY
WON'T BE
ALLOWED TO
FALL INTO
OBSCURITY.

WAS THE
OBJECT
OF EVERY
WOMAN'S
DREAM









fall

...have vivid
memories
of the way
he made
me feel



it was
scary





...or if
it was
love.



But I
didn't
see...

—if
there was
anything
more
to it...



HIKARU?



GET
OUTTA
HERE!

WHY
DON'T
YOU TRY
SANDING,
YOUNG?





IT'S A DELICATE MATTER.

YOU'RE NOT CARELESS ENOUGH TO TELL ON AIR, ARE YOU?



I WOULDNT EXPECTING YOU WANT IS IT?



I WONDER WHAT HEARDI WOULD SAY...

...IF HE KNOW OF YOUR RESONING LIFESTYLE.



I HEARD YOU WERE RETURNING TO JAPAN THIS WEEK



I'VE
DECIDED
NOT TO
RETURN



I'M
NEVER
GOING
BACK TO
JAPAN
AGAIN...

ななひかり
NANAHIKARI

contact.28





Despite our
leisurely,
we created music
inspired by our
aspirations for
the future



We started
out by playing
live gigs at
small clubs

Our
band,
SONS,
grew in
popularity
worldwide



Later
we gained
experience in
large music
halls with
excellent
acoustics



No
Jokes!

Tickets to
our gig of a
Broadway
theater in
New York
was a
sell-out

The voice
was com-
pacted
with Pans



there was
rumor
speculation
about the
difference in
talent between
ourselves and
our alleged
father

Paradise
Hill 1998

With the
passage
of time...



But
we



...don't
let any
of it
bother
us

We
allowed
our music
to mature
in the
fullness
of time.



It is said
there is
no secret
in this world
that can be
concealed to
the grave.

So the
day would
finally
get out...

...their world-
renowned
conductor
Ashinara Nazeel,
who passed away
prematurely,
was the true
father of the
other members
of SON'S.



Some
were hurt,
others were
killed

The life led
by one man
has left an
indivisible
impression
on us all



...was when
I was sure a
guardian angel
was watching
over us.











IT'S NOT
VERY
CONVINCING.

IS THAT
THE BEST
LINE YOU
CAN COME
UP WITH?



I WISH IT
TO SHOW
THE WORLD
YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE
I'LL EVER
FIGHT.
KUSAKURA

YOU
NEAR
THAT?



AFTER ALL
THIS TIME
IS THAT ALL
YOU REALLY
WANT TO
KNOW?

IF IT WASN'T FOR
YOUR SO-CALLED
WORK, YOU WOULDN'T
HAVE COME HERE
WOULDN'T SO ALSO
YOU DON'T EVEN
THINK ABOUT ME
ANYMORE, DO YOU?

THEN WHY
DON'T YOU
TRY COMING
UP WITH
A BETTER
ONE?



—HAVING
SEVEN TIMES
THE LIMELIGHT
COURTESY OF A
FAMOUS FATHER
ISN'T EASY TO
HANDLE—

THE
TRUTH
IS —







HE MADE
THE DECISION
TO LEAVE
BECAUSE
HE KNEW
I WASN'T
READY

SO THERE
WAS NOTHING
I COULD DO TO
STOP HIM

I'M
SURE
OF IT,



...IMPROVING
PHYSICAL
FITNESS
IMPROVED
MY ABILITY TO
CONCENTRATE...

REALLY...

OH
YES?

THAT'S
MEANS TO ME.
YOU'LL HAVE TO
EXPLAIN HOW
THAT WORKS.



WHEN MY FINGERS
MOVED OVER
THE PIANO
KEYS,

MY MIND
SCRAMBLED
BEFORE I
EVEN STRUCK
THE FIRST
NOTE

WHEN I
DRIVEN
MY OWN
PERFOR-
MANCE.

SEEK I'M
LIVING PROOF
THAT BEING
CELEBRITY HAS
NO DRAWBACKS.

...IT'S AS
IF I'M NO
CALIBRE
UP IN THE
MOMENT I'M
COMPLETELY
OBVIOUS TO
EVERYTHING
ELSE.

WHAT
DID YOU SAY?

YOU POP
STARS LIVE IN
A HARD WORLD?
THAT'S A
MORE LIVELY
EXPLANATION!



DO YOU THINK
ANGELINA WOULD
LOST INTEREST IN
LIFE WITHOUT
REGARD?

YEAH,
I DO.

SO WHAT?
YOU THINK THERE'S
NOT SOMETHING
TO GO WITH US
TODAY?

NEAREST ONE
TAKAKO WAS
GIVEN A BIG NAME
IN INTERNATIONAL
MUSIC CIRCLES
AS WELL UNTIL
HER DIVORCE
FROM ARTIST.



COME
HERE.



IT'S JUST
A KISS

BUT A KISS
MIGHT BE
ENOUGH
TO MAKE
ME COME
REMEMBER IT



I'M NOT
SURE...

HOW I'M
GOING TO REAP
THE REWARDS
OF CELEBRITY
ANYMORE.



...OF SAYING
YOU'RE NOT
INTERESTED IN
TAKING THINGS
FURTHER?

IS THAT
YOUR
WAY...





DON'T GET
YOUR HOPES
UP! THERE'S A
GOLDEN ANGEL
OUT THERE
WHO'LL SHINE
A LIGHT ON
EVERYBODY!

IT'LL
REMAIN THE
BEST KEPT
SECRET THIS
CENTURY!









EXCUSE
ME A
MINUTE



HELLO
YOUNG!



I'M
MORE INTO
CLASSICAL
MUSIC
NOWADAYS.

THANKS
FOR THE
OFFER,
BUT IT'S
NOT ANY
THING



WAKABE-SAN'S
BACK IN JAPAN
HE'S BEEN
WORKING AT A
TOKYO HOTEL
FOR A WHILE.



YES?

WHAT
NEWS?



Yo!
What's
up?

I could've
sent a text,
but I thought
I should call
you with
the news.



HE'S BEEN
HOLDING
OUT ON US!

REALLY?
BUT HE
NEVER GAVE
A WORD!

YEAH,
I HEARD
HE'S EVEN
GOT A WIFE
AND CHILD
NOW.

That's
great!

It'll be so
much easier
to see him!



WE ONLY
KEEP IN TOUCH
VIA TEXT. WE
HAVEN'T SEEN
EACH OTHER
IN AGES.

I'M LOOKING
FORWARD
TO SEEING
YOU TOO,
HIMARI.

FIVE
YEARS
IS A
LONG
TIME.



But I haven't
heard a
whisper
from her.

What kind
of person
would lack
the decency
to make
suppose of her
like this?

YEAH,
TOO LONG.



Shinichi
Kudo

Is that
waiting
telephone
ever
being
important
to him.

Shinichi
Kudo

The glare
of the public
spotlight is
more fierce
than I ever
imagined



as long as
you teach me
how to be
an
ordinary
citizen

To love to
hear from
you as long
as you tell me
one thing.

Is anyone
out there
around
me
waiting
for me.











He said
he had...

...some legal
formations
he needed to
complete.

So...

...WHAT
DID HE
WANT?



He
turned
up at my
home!

WHAT
ELSE?

I explained to
him I wasn't going
to make a claim
which means the
money estate has
been left to you,
Hi San!

Well, in the end
everyone chose
to renounce their
rights to an
inheritance.



A
VISITOR?



HE'S
GETTING
HIMSELF ALL
WORKED UP!

WHERE'S
HARUO?

HE'S
NOT A
VISITOR.



WHERE
DID HE
GO?

What do
you mean
"where did he
go"?
He left soon
after.

BUT IT'S
IMPORTANT!

How am I
supposed to
know?













SO YOU
MAY AS WELL
GO BACK
TO WHERE
YOU CAME
FROM.

IT'S BEEN
SO LONG
THAT EVEN
YOUR NAME
SOUNDS
UNFAMILIAR
TO ME.

ANYWAY,
THE PAST
IS DEAD AND
BURIED AS
FAR AS I'M
CONCERNED.

I DON'T
BELIEVE
I'M HEAR-
ING THIS.

THAT'S A
HORRIBLE
THING
TO SAY,
REXELL.

DON'T YOU
REMEMBER
HOW YOU USED
TO PUT ME IN
MY PLACE WITH
YOUR SAUCY
PUT-DOWNS?

WHAT?
BECAUSE
YOU KNEW
ME AS THE
ACE KID
WHO DID
WHATEVER
YOU PLEASED?



ENOUGH!

ALL THE INSULTS
I KNOW
TODAY...

I
LEARNED
FROM
YOU.

I'VE BEEN
CREATING
THE THOUGHT
OF FACING
YOU.



YOU'LL
STAND THERE
AND GLOAT
ABOUT
NEVER FORGETTING
ME FOR A
SECOND.

NEXT...

HE TALKING
ME WITH A
SARCASTIC
GRIN...

YOUR WAY
OF PROVING
THAT YOU'RE
AN ADULT?



WERE YOU
REALLY THAT
UPSET BY MY
RUDENESS-
SHACHUUSA-
SAN?

WE ALL
WOUND
YOU SO
MUCH



WOULDN'T YOU
FORGIVE
ME TOO,
SHACHUUSA-
SAN?

I'VE
FORGIVEN
YOU
ALREADY



OR DID
YOU COME
BACK TO
BOAST AND
REOPEN OLD
WOUNDS?

HWARU...



IS THERE
A ROW
GOING
ON IN
THERE?

WAO
KAWO!

HINDO'S
WITH THAT
ATTORNEY,
RIGHT?

I'M NOT
SURE I
CAN

BUT I DID
RETURN IN
THE HOPE I
WOULD COME
AWAY WITH
A KISS...



OURMAN SAID
HE'LL TAKE US
ON A TOUR OF THE
APARTMENT!

SCENE
BEAUTY?

LET THEM
SORT IT
OUT ON
THEIR
OWN



GOO
D-SURE!

WHAT
APART-
MENT?

WOW
ARE YOU
GETTING SO
NERVOUS
ALREADY?

IT'S VACANT
NOW, SO IT'S
GREAT THING.
WANNA GO?

OUR
FATHER'S
APARTMENT
IT'S ALL BEEN
ASSIGNED





LUMINOSITY

contact 800
870





引返して
近頃…





J. M. 1998
www.jm.com

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【あとがき】

読んで下さい



NANAHIKARI

Candid manga commentary

This is a half-baked translation of two posts from Takaguchi Seisaku's blog dated 19th & 20th April 2012. There are spoiler-free references to her earlier BL works Lucky-kun, Sekende Yaruse (Shout Out Loud), PINK and Yononaka wa Bokura ni Amai

Not many BL works are still in stock. Although the titles can be clicked the plotlines do have some value. Has it been twenty years since I first began drawing BL manga? Perhaps I'm well and truly over that rush of giddy enthusiasm. I suppose I can finally handle it with a degree of objectivity because I don't find BL that entertaining now. I think you can see the shift in my perspective as I draw *Nanahikari* from beginning to end. The final chapter lacked credibility.

So what went wrong? Well, making the series far too long was an error of judgement! Plus cramming too many characters into each chapter was such a rookie mistake! How typical of you, Takaguchi! "laughs" I was planning to make the story more compact. (I know I should I be saying this now the series is finished.) But I wasn't sure where to start. I also discovered that I don't feel for cool characters who suppress their emotions anymore. I'm unsure when I realized this, but I did have an inkling during the first couple of volumes. By the time Watan was introduced I was having very mixed feelings. With the introduction of Nozomi, I thought that would be the end of it, but I was already in way too deep!

The series starts with an ordinary high school boy who is shown to be the son of a famous actor. My original idea was to focus on him and his viewpoint, but the inclusion of *Hakkenden**-like episodes with him meeting his brothers became distracting and superfluous. After believing it wouldn't be an obstacle for a BL manga, I later discovered it was a major challenge!

Just because I am motivated to create a manga is no guarantee that I will. I don't read much anymore. Then again, there are too few entertaining BL works and most are dull and predictable. So whatever you do, don't leave the books of your favorite mangaka gathering dust in the bookstore. (Please click online to buy a copy because even one copy can make a difference!) Nevertheless, it's a myth that we are approaching the day when the media welcomes a gay person with open arms. It's very much a pipe dream in the real world. Even in a drama with BL overtones, getting to grips with the repercussions is mind-boggling. It used to be easier, you know. If such a day ever does come to pass, the narrow-minded naysayers out there will have no choice but to take their prejudices and find shelter in the nearest cave where they belong!

HAKKENDEN epic Edo period novel by Kyokutei Bakin about eight brothers scattered across Japan who share a demonically possessed dog as their father

NANAHIKARI

Candid manga commentary

Perhaps I virtually covered all the things I wanted to explore in the BL genre with my previous work. *Yononaka wa Bokura ni Awa*. It's something I only realized recently. Perhaps I shouldn't have gone ahead with *Nanahikari*. Since I did, I should've spaced it out more. If I ever decide to do another BL manga, I'll make it a sex-free one. (Jesus?) To be honest with you, the frisson of suspense is what I love the most about BL.

Is the fact that I've continued creating BL from *Lucky-kun* over twenty years ago (my first BL manga) to the final chapter of *Nanahikari* in 2012 a sign of my dedication? Nah, not really.

Now I don't know what on earth to do next. Naturally I am motivated to finish a series. So I keep working at it, unless there is a specific reason for a series to be discontinued. As I worked on *Nanahikari*, I never questioned where I was taking the story at the time. Typical, huh? Actually, I haven't been that crazy about high school boys lately. So it doesn't bode well for any future BL works.

You see, the editorial department view a young boy as the ideal BL protagonist. A middle-aged man is viewed less favorably as it's considered to be a difficult theme to explore. So they do keep such characters to a minimum, albeit in a subtle way. In *Yononaka*, my previous work, there was one high school boy in Yotsuma, but he was still immature. Characters so young don't really whet my appetite. Yet ultimately I'm the creator. Maybe I managed to come up with *Nanahikari* so easily because Hirone (Attorney Shimogura) was not your typical protagonist. I loved how he was a man who seemed to have a depraved side. He exuded charm and sex appeal (even if he himself was outwardly aloof). Maybe my tastes don't match up with the BL magazine trends any more. *PSYK* is another example of this.

I believe a young man's inexperience, immaturity, and insecurity make him intolerant and less open-minded. A man is in his element from his thirties to his fifties. I don't even recall how I persuaded the editorial department the first time I created a hero in his thirties (*Sakande Yururu/Shour! Out Loud!*) because it was considered to be such a departure from the norm. Maybe making him a baby-faced voice actor who plays the role of a high school student helped to win them over. It certainly was radical at the time. Well, nowadays when I want to draw something, I go ahead and draw whatever I like. Men in their thirties are a lot more fun! Then again, they have ended up becoming a weakness of mine. Anyway, since I managed to pull that off, high school boys may be appearing at one-tenth the average rate in Takaguchi BL works. (Will they be published?) I want to be able to draw less explicit sex scenes, such as characters reaching climax without having to rip their clothes off.

NANAHIKARI

Candid manga commentary

When I paired the characters Hirone and Wataru together in *Nanahikari*, it was something completely different, wasn't it? It's my preferred type of peeing or kink, so to speak (you know what I mean). I do like Ashinuma too, but he is young and immature. If there had been no high school boy like him at the very last minute, I would be out in the cold somewhere freezing my butt off. I wouldn't be able to work anymore. So, I included him, and I made sure I enjoyed myself in the process. To those who believe high school boys are my weakness, I only draw them because I'm afraid of getting older.

The original Japanese posts are available at *Salon Bataille*:

- <http://www.sakaguchi.net/?p=664> dated 19th April 2012
- <http://www.sakaguchi.net/?p=666> dated 20th April 2012

NANAHIKARI

Translation note

The literal meaning of 'nanahikan' is seven lights. As mentioned in Chapter 1, it comes from the saying "Oya no hikan wa nanahikan" which means 'A parent's light is as good as seven lights.' In later releases I began to refer to it as 'father's light' in credit pages because it was pretty obvious from the plot that Hikaru's father, Mitsuho Kazumitsu, was the one shining the magnified 'light' of media attention upon his son.

To truly appreciate what 'nanahikan' means, think of light in terms of the limelight. A performer seeking fame and recognition may garner a certain share of the limelight based on their talent, personality and looks. But if they are the child of a celebrity, they are guaranteed much more limelight simply because of their parentage - seven times the light, according to the Japanese saying. The sevenfold attention that comes with having a famous parent is the true meaning of 'nanahikan.'

My alternative half-baked translation of the saying would be this:
A parent in the limelight leads to seven times the limelight!

Online J-E dictionaries suggest 'nanahikan' is a positive thing, but that's clearly not the case as shown in the manga. Hikaru and his half-brothers must deal with the flashlights of photographers and the media spotlight aimed squarely at the private lives of them and their family. So perhaps, light with its mix of positive and negative connotations is a better choice of word despite its inherent ambiguity.

It could be argued that 'nanahikan' also plays a part in the romantic interest shown by Attorney Shimogure and Ashinoma-senpai towards Hikaru. Shimogure's interest is piqued by Hikaru's resemblance to his father, the man Shimogure once loved. Ashinoma-senpai is haunted by the unrequited love his half-brother felt for Hikaru's father, and feels his attraction to Hikaru is a case of history repeating itself.

Light is a recurring trope throughout the series. Takaguchi-senpai makes references to the sun and sunlight, secrets coming to light, people being in the limelight or spotlight, and the artwork features plenty of light glittering, glowing and shining upon and around the characters. The name Hikaru means 'light' and the kanji for light appears in Mitsuho Kazumitsu's name.

Under the circumstances, it is quite fitting that the series concludes in Paris, the city of light.







ななひかり

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